



MOTION: GIRVAN

December 11, 2007

SECOND: DEVINE

Regular Meeting

Resolution No. 07-122

**RE: SELECTING PRINCESS ANNE STREET OPTION A AS THE
PREFERRED SITE OPTION FOR FUTURE COURTHOUSE FACILITIES**

ACTION: APPROVED; Ayes: 7; Nays: 0

WHEREAS, City Staff has completed its due diligence review of court facilities including the City of Fredericksburg Court Facility Feasibility Study, dated August 27, 2007, by Moseley Architects of Richmond, Virginia (the "Moseley Report"); and

WHEREAS, the Moseley Report contains a review of:

- Historic significance and conditions of the 1852 Circuit Court Building
- Court Facility space needs of eight court functions including Circuit Court, Circuit Court Clerk, Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, General District Court, Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Service Unit, Commonwealth Attorney, Sheriff and Rappahannock Regional Drug Court
- Eight potential court site options; and

WHEREAS, the Moseley Report concludes that the 1852 Circuit Court is inadequate to provide safe courtroom and office space for the City's growing court filing workload; and

WHEREAS, Circuit Court Judge John W. Scott, Jr. has indicated that time is of the essence to construct modern court facilities; and

WHEREAS, General District Court Judge John R. Stevens and Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Judge David F. Peterson concur in the need for modern court facilities; and

WHEREAS, on May 29, 2007, all eight judges of the Fifteenth Circuit wrote the City Manager and City Attorney to strongly support Judge Scott's request for new court facilities; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, Sheriff Paul W. Higgs oversaw two security assessments of the City court facilities and concluded that the courts do not meet modern security standards; and

WHEREAS, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sharron S. Mitchell, has serious space, security, and work environment concerns about the existing 1852 Circuit Court; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth's Attorney Charles S. Sharp, Jr. concurs with the need for new court facilities; and

WHEREAS, "Princess Anne Street Option A" consists of the following:

- Acquisition of a portion of the Post Office property and adjoining bank property
- Construction of a three-story combined Circuit Court, General District Court, and Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Building, clerks and drug court
- Renovation of the existing General District Court Building for the Commonwealth's Attorney and Sheriff's Office
- Construction of a three-level parking deck
- Renovation of the 1852 Circuit Court Building for uses to be determined
- Demolition, renovation or sale of the existing Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Building
- Housing of the Court Service Unit at the Executive Plaza; and

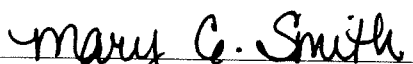
WHEREAS, the City Manager recommends "Princess Anne Street Option A" as the preferred option for future courthouse facilities for the City;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Fredericksburg as follows:

1. The site option known as "Princess Anne Street Option A" in the Fredericksburg Court Facility7 Feasibility Study, dated August 27, 2007, is the preferred option for new court facilities.
2. The City Council directs the City Manager to conduct negotiations and studies over the next 180 days towards an agreement with the United States Postal Service through the Keating Development Company to design and build the new court facility on the redeveloped Post Office site.
3. The City Council directs the Planning Commission to complete a Comprehensive Plan "Section 2232" review of this option and return a recommendation. The Council notes the recently updated Fredericksburg Comprehensive Plan recommends that "the three courts in the downtown stay in the downtown."
4. The City Council directs the City Manger to prepare for Council consideration any supplemental budget appropriations necessary for the pursuit of these tasks, in particular, the land acquisition

Clerk's Certificate

I, the undersigned, certify that I am Clerk of Council of the City of Fredericksburg, Virginia, and that the foregoing is a true copy of Resolution No. 07-122 duly adopted the City Council meeting held December 11, 2007 at which a quorum was present and voted.



Mary C. Smith, CMC
Clerk of Council